

this shedding, THE MALE PLANT SHOULD BE HARVESTED because the resin content is at a peak. After the shedding, the stock and stems will turn pale, the leaves will start to shrivel and the plant will die.

While the males are reaching maturity and preparing to release the pollen, the female plants are developing flower clusters and the bracts (see center picture) are starting to separate so that the pistils can protrude and catch the pollen from the male. If you do not care about a good crop of seeds, the male plants should be harvested before they release the pollen and the females will devote all their energy to protecting the flower clusters—by producing more resin in the whole area—until she can hopefully get fertilized. In about 3-5 weeks when her energy is exhausted, she abandons the hope of getting fertilized and will start to die. The stalks and stems will start to turn pale, lose their waxy texture, and the leaves will start to shrivel. At this point THE FEMALE PLANTS SHOULD BE HARVESTED for they are at maximum potency. In India when growing Cannabis for ganja, this is the process employed.

If on the other hand you want a good crop of seeds and don't mind the potency of the plant being reduced by about 10%, the female plant should not be harvested until the seeds are just about rattling in their pods. This occurs usually about one month after being fertilized.

The plants will withstand a mild frost. However, if there is a forecast for frost it is best to harvest the plants before the frost hits. After experiencing a light frost, the leaves will be relatively crisp and still smokable, but after experiencing a heavy frost, the leaves will turn black and the smoke will be very harsh.

If frost presents no problem in your area or you are growing the crop indoors, you may wish to try an interesting method called DOUBLE FLOWERS. After the female plant has begun to form her flower clusters, merely snip off the flower clusters just above where they join the main leaves (The Growing Point). A new flower cluster will develop in its place in about one

month. This process can be repeated as many times as desired but after the third or fourth harvest of flower tops the plant starts to become very abnormal and usually will not produce a good crop of seeds. This is an interesting technique for not only have you prolonged the life of the plant and made it more potent, but you have also produced a double crop of the very potent flower tops. AS A GENERAL RULE, THE FLOWER TOPS ARE 8 TIMES AS POWERFUL AS THE BOTTOM LEAVES.

Harvesting can be done in a variety of ways and there is considerable disagreement as to what is the best way. In Mexico, the farmers use the traditional method of sun-drying the crop. They break the upper third of the plant and let it hang until the leaves are dry, whereas in India the Cannabis is sometimes dried in sheds, as is tobacco in the U.S. One source claims that sun drying is the best and another claims that the sun bleaches the potency from the plants. Others claim that hanging the plant upside down causes nearly all the resin to flow to the top and leaves.

After considerable research, I have been unable to uncover any evidence that experiments have been conducted to determine whether the resin (Tetrahydrocannabinol)—is actually made more or less potent by the sun during the curing process, or whether more resin is found on the leaves after the plants have been hung upside down. After wading through hundreds of pages of technical material, it can be safely concluded that the exact relationship between the various chemical actions of the tetrahydrocannabinols still is a mystery.